

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
L-03 MCT-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-01 /092 W
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R 092306Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9951
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 00843

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EAIR

SUBJECT: ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF ANTI-HIJACKING

CONTACT GROUP, NEW YORK, MARCH 8 AND 9, 1978

1. THE FOLLOWING TWENTY-THREE COUNTRIES ATTENDED THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE ANTI-HIJACKING CONTACT GROUP AT THE NETHERLANDS MISSION TO THE UN: ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, CANADA, COSTA RICA, FRANCE, FRG, INDONESIA, IRAN, ITALY, IVORY COAST, JAPAN, KENYA, MEXICO, NETHERLANDS, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, SWEDEN, UK, US AND YUGOSLAVIA. PAKISTAN AND YUGOSLAVIA DID NOT JOIN THE GROUP UNTIL THE SECOND DAY. USSR DECLINED THE INVITATION TO ATTEND AND GABON, GHANA AND SAUDI ARABIA DID NOT APPEAR.

2. DISCUSSIONS FIRST DAY WERE NOT ENCOURAGING WITH KENYA SUGGESTING APPROACHES BE MADE TO CHAIRMEN OF REGIONAL GROUPS RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL STATES NOT PARTIES TO THE ANTI-HIJACKING CONVENTIONS. OTHERS EXHIBITED CREATIVE ABILITY IN COMING UP WITH REASONS TO TAKE NO ACTION. BELGIUM SUGGESTED INITIAL APPROACHES TO SUCH STATES TO DETERMINE WHETHER NON-RATIFICATION WAS A MINOR (ADMINISTRATIVE) PROBLEM OR A MAJOR (POLITICAL) ISSUE. AUSTRALIA MENTIONED THAT KOTAITE, PRESIDENT ICAO, HAD RECENTLY VISITED NUMBER OF COUNTRIES RE MATTER OF NON-RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTIONS. AUSTRALIA AGREED WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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BELGIUM'S TWO-STAGE APPROACH IN ORDER NOT TO "TRIP UP THE OTHER FELLOW" (ICAO) ALREADY TAKING ACTION TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF RATIFICATIONS OF THE CONVENTIONS. SWEDEN DID NOT WANT THE GROUP TAKING ACTION NOW WHEN THE DEADLINE FOR REPLIES TO THE ICAO QUESTIONNAIRE ON WHY STATES HAD NOT RATIFIED WAS ONLY THREE WEEKS AWAY. ARGENTINA SAID IT WAS UNABLE TO AGREE, EVEN ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS, TO ANY CONTACTS WITH NON-RATIFYING STATES. BRAZIL WAS MOST HELPFUL BOTH DAYS STATING IT HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THE MATTERS BEING DISCUSSED. AUSTRIA ASSERTED NEED FOR INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE IT COULD AGREE TO ANYTHING EVEN AD REFERENDUM ALTHOUGH SUBSEQUENTLY WERE SOMEWHAT MORE HELPFUL.

3. CORE GROUP (US, FRG, JAPAN, NETHERLANDS PLUS BELGIUM) MET PM MARCH 8 AND AGREED THAT NETHERLANDS (CHAIRMAN CONTACT GROUP) SHOULD PRESS FOR ASSIGNMENT OF STATES TO ACT AS CONTACTS REGARDING RATIFICATIONS DESPITE THE RELUCTANCE OF MEETING THAT MORNING TO PROCEED WITH THIS WORK. CORE GROUP ALSO AGREED ON LIST OF TALKING POINTS (SEE SEPTTEL) TO BE CIRCULATED TO THE CONTACT GROUP THE FOLLOWING DAY.

4. NETHERLANDS OPENED MARCH 9 MEETING BY SUGGESTING
SCENARIO AGREED IN CONTACT GROUP. FRANCE AND UK SPOKE IN
FAVOR DEMARCHES WITH SEVERAL STATES APPROACHING THE SAME
STATE. ITALY AGREED WITH IDEA OF FEEDING THE MOMENTUM OF
UNGA RESOLUTION 32/8 AND VOLUNTEERED CONTACT ANGOLA,
MOZAMBIQUE AND GUINEA. IN SAME VEIN PHILIPPINES SUGGESTED
JORDAN AND SAUDI ARABIA'S CO-SPONSORSHIP OF UN RESOLUTION
WAS SOMETHING ON WHICH CONTACT GROUP COULD BUILD.
COSTA RICA POINTED OUT THAT MOST OF LATIN AMERICAN
NON-PARTIES TO CONVENTIONS WERE SPONSORS OF UN RESOLUTION.

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5. CONTACT GROUP STATES THEN AGREED, ON AN AD REFERENDUM BASIS, TO FOLLOWING ASSIGNMENTS OF NON-PARTY STATES TO HAGUE AND MONTREAL CONVENTIONS THEY WOULD APPROACH:

ALGERIA - US; ANGOLA - ITALY; BENIN - --; BOTSWANA - UK;
BURUNDI - BELGIUM; CENTRAL AFR. EMP. - FRANCE;
COMOROS - --; CONGO - FRANCE; DJIBOUTI - FRANCE;
EQUATORIAL GUINEA - --; ETHIOPIA - UK; GAMBIA - UK;
GUINEA - ITALY, FRANCE; LESOTHO - UK; LIBERIA - US,
IVORY COAST; LIBYA - --; MADAGASCAR - FRANCE;
MAURITANIA - FRANCE, US; MAURITIUS - FRANCE;
MOZAMBIQUE - ITALY; RWANDA - BELGIUM; SAO TOME AND
PRINCIPE - --; SEYCHELLES - UK; SIERRA LEONE - UK;
SOMALIA - FRG; SUDAN - NETHERLANDS, US; SWAZILAND - UK;
TOGO - FRANCE; TUNISIA - FRANCE; UGANDA - --;
CAMEROON - FRANCE; TANZANIA - NETHERLANDS; UPPER VOLTA -
FRANCE; ZAMBIA - AUSTRIA; BAHRAIN - UK, US;
DEMOCRATIC YEMEN - UK; KUWAIT - US; QATAR - US, UK;
SYRIA - FRANCE; UAE - UK, US; YEMEN - US, FRG;
BOLIVIA - (ARGENTINA MENTIONED IT HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS
AT THIS POINT); DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - US; PERU - AUSTRIA,
COSTA RICA; SURINAM - NETHERLANDS; VENEZUELA - US,
COSTA RICA, FRG; BAHAMAS - UK, US; CUBA - CANADA;
EL SALVADOR - COSTA RICA; GRENADA - US, UK; HAITI - US;
HONDURAS - COSTA RICA; JAMAICA - UK, NETHERLANDS;
ALBANIA - FRANCE; LUXEMBOURG (WILL RATIFY VERY SOON);
MALTA - UK; AFGHANISTAN - US, FRANCE; BANGLADESH - JAPAN,
FRG, NETHERLANDS; BHUTAN - JAPAN; BURMA - JAPAN, NETHER-
LANDS; CHINA - JAPAN; KAMPUCHEA - JAPAN; INDIA - US,
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JAPAN; LAOS - JAPAN; MALAYSIA - US, UK, INDONESIA,
PHILIPPINES; MALDIVES - UK; NEPAL - US; SAMOA - AUSTRAL-
IA; SINGAPORE - INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, AUSTRALIA;
SRI LANKA - US, FRG, NETHERLANDS; THAILAND - PHILIPPINES,

JAPAN, INDONESIA; VIETNAM - FRANCE.

6. SWEDEN SAID IT HAD BEEN SILENT DURING THE ASSIGNMENTS
BUT WOULD REPORT TO ITS CAPITAL AND BE BACK SOON.

7. THE TALKING POINTS WERE HANDED OUT TO THE GROUP BUT
NOT DISCUSSED. A SECOND STAGE OF THE MEETING WILL BE
CALLED BY THE NETHERLANDS APPROXIMATELY MARCH 20, AT
WHICH TIME THESE POINTS WILL BE DISCUSSED AND A DEFINITE
LIST OF STATES WHICH WILL ACT AS CONTACTS WILL BE DRAWN
UP. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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